

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration in view of the previous amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending, claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 being independent. By this Amendment, the title and claims 5, 7 and 12 are amended, and new claims 14 and 15 are added.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 6 and 13 are allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to the title. The title is amended to address the Examiner's concerns.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over JP 08-119553 to Kasai et al. (identified as JP 08-119556 in the Office Action). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, in combination with other claimed features, a detection portion for detecting a condition of the clock signal counted within a preset period of time. Such a feature encompasses Applicant's exemplary embodiment as illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 wherein the counter portion 2 counts the number of rising edges of the clock signal d1 in accordance with the trigger signal d2. Specifically, the counter portion 2 counts the number of rising edges of the clock signal d1 within a set period of time from an arbitrary rising edge of the trigger signal d2 to a next rising edge of the trigger signal d2. The number of edges of the clock signal d1 in a normal state between two rising edges of a trigger signal d2 is set as the number of edges d3 in advance.

The Office Action asserts that Kasai discloses an abnormality detector which can be compared with any other clock signal to determine an abnormality. However, there is no disclosure in Kasai that clock abnormality detection circuit 2 performs this function, nor is there any disclosure of the clock signal counted within a preset period of time. Instead, in Kasai the clocks are thought to be normal if the last divided clock is normal.

Independent claims 7, 8, 14 and 15 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims are also allowable for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the individual features they recite.

For example, dependent claim 5 recites the detection portion compares a number of edges of the clock signal with a preset number of edges when detecting the condition of the clock signal counted within the preset period of time. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

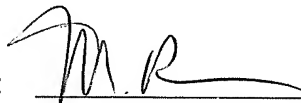
Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: October 22, 2008

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Britton', written over a horizontal line.

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